

**Remarks of Mayor Mike Winder, West Valley City
UTOPIA announcement regarding Google
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
West steps of West Valley City Hall**

Good morning! I'm Mayor Mike Winder, and I welcome you to West Valley City Hall. I am excited to be here with fellow mayors and community leaders from the cities of UTOPIA to announce another exciting development in our cities' efforts to deploy fiber optic telecommunications to the homes and businesses of our cities.

Last week, industry leader Google made a stunning announcement. In case you missed it, they said:

Google is planning to launch an experiment that we hope will make Internet access better and faster for everyone. We plan to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in one or more trial locations across the country. Our networks will deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today, over 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. We'll offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people.

From now until March 26th, we're asking interested municipalities to provide us with information about their communities through a Request for information (RFI), which we'll use to determine where to build our network. (See more at: <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/>)

In their announcement they talked about the need for government to step up to provide this important 21st century infrastructure, the need for such fiber networks to be "open networks", and their desire to partner with interested local governments to make it happen.

If nothing else, this bold statement by the industry leader is telling the world that the Internet of the future is demanding fiber to the home and affirming everything UTOPIA has always stood for. It is as if our cities have been buying a certain stock for years and the world wasn't sure if we were doing the right thing. Then one day Warren Buffet walks in the room and announces that he is going to buy that same stock. Now they are sitting up and paying attention.

Last week Google affirmed that what the cities of UTOPIA are trying to do in boldly bringing fiber to their communities is the right move for the future of telecom in this country. Their experiment with deploying some fiber of their own is out of sheer frustration that the governments in this country have not moved fast enough to provide this vital infrastructure.

The competition will be fierce around the country for communities vying to be chosen as Google Fiber Communities; but few communities are poised like the cities of UTOPIA to offer a real partnership in fiber deployment. If Google can help UTOPIA further build out its fiber network in the cities of UTOPIA, they will be able to efficiently leverage their dollars to gain access to a large existing network. The partnership would be a big win for Google and for the UTOPIA communities.

This is why today we announce that the cities of UTOPIA are officially in the ring to respond to Google's RFI and are aggressively bidding to become Google Fiber Communities.

I want to give some time to my fellow mayors to share why fiber to the premises is important for their communities, too. After hearing from a few of the elected officials you will hear from UTOPIA Executive Director Todd Marriott, and from a couple of UTOPIA's providers and beneficiaries.

Remember, UTOPIA is not some private company set up to compete with the private sector. UTOPIA is an extension of the cities of UTOPIA that want to build a fiber infrastructure that allows the private sector to compete on it in an open network. What we are doing as communities, and what Google wants to do, is create an open network where small businesses and large—many headquartered right here in Utah—can compete in a free market to provide the best services and prices to the families and businesses of our cities.